

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136860

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: SENATE SENDS LETTER TO PRESIDENT PARK RE
KIM DONG-JO

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER WHICH SENATE ETHICS
COMMITTEE STAFF INFORMS US WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT
PARK MAY 25 JOINTLY FROM SENATE MAJORITY LEADER ROBERT
BYRD, SENATE MINORITY LEADER HOWARD BAKER, ETHICS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN ADLAI STEVENSON, AND VICE CHAIRMAN HARRISON
SCHMITT.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

THE HONORABLE PARK CHUNG HEE
PRESIDENT
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
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THE BLUE HOUSE
SEOUL, KOREA

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

WE VALUE THE MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND RESPECT WHICH HAVE
CHARACTERIZED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF

KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES. THAT RELATIONSHIP IS

ENDANGERED BY THE SENATE'S INABILITY TO SATISFACTORILY COMPLETE ITS INQUIRY INTO ALLEGED ATTEMPTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO IMPROPERLY INFLUENCE THE SENATE. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE COOPERATION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT WHICH MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE TO QUESTION TONG SUN PARK. BUT THE INVESTIGATION CANNOT BE COMPLETED AND A THREAT TO THE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF OUR COUNTRIES REMOVED WITHOUT FURTHER COOPERATION. THE SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE REQUESTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH KIM DONG JO.

THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS HAVE EXPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR KIM YONG SHIK THE IMPORTANCE TO THE COMMITTEE OF A MEETING WITH KIM DONG JO TO DISCUSS HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH SENATORS. THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT SEEK TESTIMONY UNDER OATH, NOR COMMUNICATION IN THE UNITED STATES. IT DOES REQUIRE A FACE TO FACE MEETING.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE DO NOT SEEK TO VIOLATE THE PRINCIPLE OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY OR ANY OTHER RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLE. ON THE CONTRARY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF COMITY BETWEEN NATIONS REQUIRES THE COOPERATION WE SEEK. AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT KIM DONG JO

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IS PERSONALLY WILLING TO COOPERATE. IT WOULD APPEAR, THEREFORE, THAT HE IS PREVENTED FROM COOPERATING BY HIS GOVERNMENT.

WE MAKE THIS PERSONAL APPEAL TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, IN ORDER THAT THIS MATTER CAN BE CONCLUDED EXPEDITIOUSLY AND PUT BEHIND OUR COUNTRIES, AND WE DO SO WITH SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES IF THAT COOPERATION IS NOT FORTHCOMING.

WITH HIGHEST ESTEEM,

SINCERELY (BYRD, BAKER, STEVENSON, SCHMITT) END TEXT

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